



ELTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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“LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU”

FRIENDSHIP

TRUST

JUSTICE

ENDURANCE

COMPASSION

KOINONIA

Dear Parents/Carers of St Christopher and St Etheldreda children,

Firstly, welcome back to the start of another school year! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer break and managed to squeeze in lots of fun. We are feeling fully refreshed and very excited to be back in school ready to embark on the next year as we hope you are too!

Our autumn term has an **“enquiry”** focus on the curriculum subjects.

Our **Big Question** this term is **“What does it mean to be powerful?”** and we will be looking at the three concepts of **“Democracy”**, **“Responsibility”** and **“Wealth”** to enquire about life today and in Ancient Greece in more detail.

Our whole class text, for the term, is **“Who let the Gods out?”** by Maz Evans. This is a “laugh-out loud” type of book combining a modern-day story line with Greek mythology. When a young boy, called Elliot, realises he has no one “mortal” to help him and his sick mum he discovers that the Greek gods and goddesses are still around to help (or hinder) him! We think it’s brilliant and really did have a giggle at the humour in the book.

*(And please - no need to buy the book- in fact, we’d go so far as to ask you **not** to buy it, that way, we can all uncover the magic and suspense of the story at the same time every day in class and no one can give any “spoilers”!)*

This term will obviously have a very strong history base as we investigate what life was like for the Ancient Greeks and what we have learnt from them but it will also be coupled with developing our geography skills as we take a close look at the landscape of this amazing country - both in the present and the past. During this topic we will have many opportunities to develop our grammar and writing skills, completing a range of different text types.

We have invited **“Those History People”** back to our school again on **Monday 14th October** in order for us to step back in time, visit Athens and take part in the Battle of Marathon in 490BCE. In addition to the children being able to take part in lots of drama and story telling activities they will also be developing their art and DT skills creating ancient Greek artefacts. More details about this – including ideas for simple dressing up ideas will follow later. We will need lots of volunteers to help us run this day – so please let us know if you are free to help us on this day - please come in to share the fun!

If any of you are able to take a trip to Cambridge, we can also recommend a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum (<https://fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/>) and the Museum of Classical Archaeology (<https://www.classics.cam.ac.uk/museum>) if you want to discover more about

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our history subject. *We did investigate class trips to these places but feel that they would be better for small family groups rather than 60 children!*

Science- A very important Greek scholar called Aristotle will “introduce” our science topic this term, “Living Things”, as he was responsible (over 2000 years ago) for showing us the importance of classifying living things by their special characteristics.

Maths- We will continue to work through the White Rose maths programme. The children will further develop their skills and work towards mastery in a range of different mathematical concepts. This term we will be revisiting, embedding and developing their understanding of **place value** with ever increasing numbers before moving onto **solving problems using all four number operations**. We will be further developing fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills. Within each lesson we will build in opportunities for the children to practise their times tables, associated division facts and mental maths skills. *There is a government expectation that children will know all their times tables to 12 x 12 by the end of year 4 (and a statutory test in Summer 2024 for all Year 4 children) so any times table games you can play with your child at home to embed these skills would be great.*

RE- We will be delving into 2 different enquiry questions for two different faiths this term, **Hinduism, “Why do Hindus want to collect good karma?”** and **Christianity, “Why is the gospel such good news for Christians?”** The children will further develop their skills in learning **about** religion (knowledge and understanding of religion and worldviews) and learning **from** religion (responding to religion and worldviews). During these units the children will be making connections and links building on previous topics and finding golden threads between other faiths. In these enquiry units they will be developing their understanding of the concepts through 3 areas: Scriptural narrative, Community Practice and Daily Living.

Music-We will be cultivating our singing skills and playing a range of instruments with increasing confidence and control. This will lead to developing ways to improvise and compose using musical notation and investigate some great composers and continue to appreciate the history of music. The question we will explore through our music lessons is **“How does music bring us together?”**.

Computing- Our topics this term are **Online Safety and Coding**. In **Year 3** the children will learn about keeping passwords safe. They will understand that not everything they see online is true. They will also explore a spoof website and learn the purpose of PEGI ratings. **Year 4** will recap digital footprints, and explore the terms malware and phishing. They will understand plagiarism and the importance of crediting creators. Plus learn about healthy screentime. **Year 5** will explore secure passwords and the importance of confidentiality. They will learn about referencing sources in work and look at how the Internet can be used to check the validity of information. In the coding unit **Year 3** will use flowcharts to plan a program. They will use timers and repeat commands and then use this knowledge to create an interactive scene. Plus realise the importance of debugging. **Year 4** will begin to understand selection in computing programs by the use of IF and IF/ELSE statements. They will explore number variables and coordinates in programming. **Year 5** will program a simulation. They will learn what decomposition and abstraction are. They will use functions and incorporate strings, variables and concatenation.

PSHE- Our unit on **Beginning and Belonging** will focus on the themes of **Helping the classroom feel a safe place, building relationships, coping with new situations and sources of support**. Later in the term we will work on the unit **Family and Friends** which will focus on **healthy friendships, developing friendship skills and families and special people**.

Latin-Latin is a brilliant way to support children's literacy as it can help children make connections between Latin and English grammar and vocabulary, and it gives them the key to unlock English. It also gives them a deeper cultural knowledge, helping them understand common concepts and phrases like "et cetera" and "Achilles' heel." Year 3 will begin their Latin journey learning about the origins of the English language and learn about present tense verbs.

We will continue to set the weekly homework on "Microsoft Teams". Many of the tasks will be online games/completed verbally *so there is no need to hand in anything physical* as such, unless specifically stated in the homework task that week. We set the homework on Teams on a Tuesday and we will show the children during the day how/where to locate it on Teams each week and explain how/what to do. The weekly homework will consist of:

Times Tables: Every day for about 10 minutes we expect the children to be practising their times tables and associated division facts. (They should know how many 7s are in 42 as opposed to simply only knowing that $6 \times 7 = 42$.) *Please remember that the Government expectation with regard to times tables is that all children **by the end of Year 4** should know all their tables up to 12x. Year 4 children will also be formally tested in the Summer term.*

Daily Reading: At least 15 minutes per day.

Spelling: Every Friday the children will be tested on the spelling strategies we have been looking at during the week in class. We will share these spelling strategies in the spelling sheet that we send home. Your child will also bring home a new copy of the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Spelling Lists that they were learning/learnt last term. The spelling lists for your child will be handed to them by the end of next week.

We may also point the children towards games or activities set on Spelling Shed on some weeks (log ins will be sent home for this). The idea is that the children should be able to complete all of these homework tasks independently helping to develop the skill of taking responsibility for their own learning and being able to organise themselves effectively, without it being driven solely by parents.

If your child has mislaid/forgotten any of their passwords for Edshed, Microsoft Teams or Purple Mash please let us know and we can send them home with another copy.

HOMWORK MATTERS

Homework Matters enables the children to delve a bit deeper into our Big Question and produce their own mini-projects. The expectation is that each piece of Homework Matters will have taken some time to complete. *(It must be clear that a good amount of time as opposed to minutes have gone into creating something that can be beautifully presented)*. For children with siblings in the school they may choose to work on a project together. We will be having a "**Homework Matters Showcase**" on the **12th December**. The children will have the opportunity to share and present their fantastic projects with the whole school and the families in our school community.

PE: St Christopher will have PE on **Monday** afternoons, and St Etheldreda on **Tuesday** afternoons, with Callum Reed. Your child may arrive for school in their PE kit on their PE

day. Please remember that when the weather “turns” an additional fleece/long tracksuit bottoms will be needed.

Water bottles: Your child needs to bring in a water bottle every day and take it home every day to be thoroughly cleaned.

Change of shoes!

We aim to stay on the field for as long as possible – even in wetter, muddier conditions – so please ensure that your child has a second pair of shoes/wellies/trainers that can be used at break and lunch times. I’m sure you can imagine what our carpets would look like if 140 muddy kids tramped in!

Our email addresses are hhannam@elton.cambs.sch.uk and jmurphy@elton.cambs.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mrs Hannam & Mrs Murphy